

PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE, LONG-RANGE, AND  
COORDINATED NATIONAL PROGRAM IN OCEANOGRAPHY,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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JULY 31, 1963.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State  
of the Union and ordered to be printed

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Mr. BONNER, from the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,  
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 6997]

The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 6997) to provide for a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography, and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

The amendment is as follows:

On page 4, line 23, delete "of", and insert in lieu thereof "to".

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of this bill is to provide for the development and maintenance of a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography, i.e., the systematic study and use of all scientific and technological data relative to the 75 percent of the surface of the earth which is covered by oceans.

Such a program is recognized by the President, the executive departments, and the Congress, as being necessary in the national interest in the coming years.

The bill provides a proper and workable solution to the problem of coordinating the activities in the marine sciences of a large number of Government agencies without destroying or impeding their autonomy. It permits the maximum use of all the technical resources, knowledge, and skills of the country, Government, private, or commercial, in an endeavor of equal or greater importance than the exploration of space.

## BACKGROUND OF THE LEGISLATION

The bill hereby reported is the outgrowth of extensive and comprehensive congressional study which began in early 1959, immediately following release of the initial report prepared by the Committee on Oceanography of the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council entitled "Oceanography 1960-70." The work of that Committee was performed under the sponsorship of several Government agencies having extensive interest in the oceans. The sponsoring agencies were the Atomic Energy Commission, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the Department of the Interior, National Science Foundation, and Office of Naval Research of the Department of the Navy.

Your committee's studies disclosed that many other Government agencies engage in activities involving in greater or lesser degree some phase of oceanography. The term "oceanography" embraces many scientific disciplines. Indeed, it encompasses the scientific study of all aspects of the oceans, their boundaries and their contents. Oceanographic research is undertaken in a variety of private and Government laboratories. Important segments of industry are engaged in various types of oceanographic activity, with new prospects for the exploitation of the marine environment opening up with increasing frequency.

Since the commencement of its studies and hearings in early 1959, your committee acting through its Subcommittee on Oceanography, has reviewed and assessed the status of the marine sciences in the United States, both within and without the Government, as a prelude to making recommendations for legislation or other action that might be needed to develop and maintain an effective national oceanography program for the future. Following these basic studies several legislative suggestions were advanced in both the House and Senate, designed for the development of a governmental mechanism under which there could be established and maintained a coordinated national program of oceanography. These efforts culminated in agreement in conference between the House and Senate on September 27, 1962, when compromise was reached between the House-passed bill, H.R. 12601, and the Senate bill, S. 901, the conference agreement being the amendment of S. 901 with a substitute text.

The principal features of S. 901 as it passed the Congress were—

- A declaration of national policy to develop, encourage, and maintain a coordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national program in oceanography, to be implemented through balanced participation and cooperation of all qualified persons, organizations, institutions, agencies, or corporate entities, whether governmental, educational, nonprofit, or industrial;

- authorization and direction to the Office of Science and Technology (established by Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1962) to establish, advance, and develop a coordinated national program of oceanography and issue a statement of goals with respect thereto;

- authorization to the President to establish in the Office of Science and Technology the position of Assistant Director for Oceanography;

authorization of an advisory Committee for Oceanography consisting of not less than seven members with powers to review and make recommendations relative to the national program;

direction to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology to report annually to the Congress on (1) the general status of oceanography; (2) status of research, development, surveys, etc., conducted by the United States in furtherance of oceanography; (3) a detailed analysis of the amounts proposed for appropriation by Congress for each of the Government departments, agencies, and instrumentalities for the ensuing year; (4) current and future plans and policies of the United States with respect to oceanography; and (5) requests for such legislation as might be necessary to carry out the purposes of the act;

direction to the Bureau of the Budget to provide annually a horizontal budget showing the total amounts proposed for appropriation for marine sciences and the funding assigned to each Government department and agency; and

definition of the scope of the term "oceanography."

S. 901 received a pocket veto following the adjournment of the 87th Congress.

Detailed background of H.R. 12601 as reported by your committee on August 14, 1962, appears in House Report 2221, 87th Congress, 2d session. House Report 2493, 87th Congress, 2d session, September 27, 1962, was the conference report to accompany S. 901, reflecting the compromise reached by the House and the Senate.

With the convening of the 88th Congress in January 1963, H.R. 13, a bill identical to S. 901 as it passed the 87th Congress, was introduced by the chairman of your committee.

Departmental reports received and a series of discussions had with departmental officials disclosed certain basic objections to H.R. 13 on organizational grounds. After full and free discussion of the bill, the Subcommittee on Oceanography of your committee decided to introduce a clean bill which would eliminate objections raised in the executive branch to the extent that such elimination would not change the purpose and objectives which both the Congress and the executive branch were in agreement upon. Accordingly, this bill, H.R. 6997, was introduced on June 12, 1963, by Subcommittee Chairman Alton Lennon, and identical bills were introduced by Mr. Pelly (H.R. 7015), Mr. Casey (H.R. 7029), Mr. Keith (H.R. 7036), Mr. Rogers of Florida (H.R. 7040), and Mr. Tupper (H.R. 7047).

#### WHAT THE BILL DOES: SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

This bill meets the organizational objections raised by the executive branch to the earlier legislation by (a) placing the responsibility for developing the oceanographic program, issuing a statement of national goals with respect to oceanography, and coordinating oceanographic activities, in the President, rather than in the Office of Science and Technology; (b) eliminating any reference to the establishment of the position of Assistant Director for Oceanography; (c) authorizing the appointment of an advisory committee but eliminating the mandatory direction for such an appointment; and (d) placing the responsibility in the President, rather than the Office of Science and Technology or the Bureau of the Budget to make annual reports to the Congress.

There follows a section-by-section summary of H.R. 6997:

Section 1 identifies the legislation as the "Oceanographic Act of 1963."

Section 2 declares it to be the policy of the United States to develop and maintain a coordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national program in oceanography. In furtherance of this policy it is declared that adequate provision must be made for continuing, systematic research, studies, and surveys of the ocean and its resources, and of the total marine environment.

It is further declared to be the policy of the United States to implement such national program through the balanced participation and cooperation of all qualified persons, organizations, institutions, agencies, or corporate entities, whether governmental, educational, nonprofit, or industrial.

It is the intent of this section to make it clear that a program of the breadth and magnitude here envisaged can be fully effective only if all the available knowledge, skills, and energies of the Nation are called upon. For example, research projects should be carried out through utilization of all appropriate means, including "in house" capabilities, grants, and contracts.

Section 3 of H.R. 6997 directs the President to (1) issue a statement of our national goals in oceanography; (2) survey the oceanographic activities of the various Federal agencies; (3) develop a comprehensive oceanographic program to be conducted or supported by these agencies; (4) designate and fix responsibility for the direction of oceanographic activities; and (5) resolve any differences between these agencies with respect to oceanographic activities. In addition this section directs him to utilize such Federal and non-Federal agencies, including the Office of Science and Technology, as he finds necessary and appropriate.

Section 4 of the bill authorizes the President to appoint an Advisory Committee for Oceanography to review the national program and make recommendations concerning the program.

Section 5 of H.R. 6997 requires that the President report annually to the Congress on the general status of oceanography; on the status of oceanography research, development, studies, and surveys together with the application of such research, development, studies, and surveys; on a financial analysis of the total amounts proposed to be appropriated for marine sciences; on a detailed analysis of the amounts proposed to be appropriated for each of the Federal agencies to carry out the purposes of this act; on current and future plans with respect to oceanography; and on the need for legislation to carry out the purposes of this act.

Finally, section 6 of the bill defines the term "oceanography."

#### COST OF THE LEGISLATION

Since this bill simply describes certain responsibilities to be exercised in regard to the establishment of a national oceanographic program, coordination of the activities of the various departments and agencies, and requirements for reporting to Congress, there is no additional cost to the Government directly involved in the bill. On the contrary, it is expected that through the existence of the coordinating mechanism established by the bill, overall expenses to the Govern-

ment in carrying out the oceanographic program will be reduced through increased efficiency.

## THE AMENDMENT

On page 4, line 23, substituting the word "to" in lieu of the word "of" is to correct a typographical error in the bill as introduced.

## DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

All reports from departments or agencies directly involved with this legislation were favorable:

There are hereafter set forth the text of the reports of the departments and agencies whose comments were requested.

## CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

There are no changes in existing law.

THE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE TREASURY,  
*Washington, July 18, 1963.*

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your request for the views and recommendations of this Department on H.R. 6997, a bill to provide for a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography.

In addition to declaring a national policy on oceanography, the bill would delineate the duties of the President in that field, authorize him to utilize such advisory arrangements as he finds desirable, and authorize him to appoint an Advisory Committee for Oceanography. This committee would review the national program in oceanography and make recommendations concerning it. The bill would provide for a report by the President to Congress which would contain, among other items, a financial analysis of the amounts proposed for appropriations for oceanography for each department and agency of the Government.

The bill is clearly intended to advance the national program in oceanography. The Department is in full sympathy with this objective. The bill would appear to be a constructive step toward the advancement and improvement of this program without derogating from the authority of the President or the heads of the agencies supporting oceanographic activities. The Department therefore supports its enactment.

The Department has been advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection from the standpoint of the administration's program to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

G. D'ANDELOT BELIN, *General Counsel.*

## NATIONAL PROGRAM IN OCEANOGRAPHY

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS,  
Washington, D.C., July 17, 1963.

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Your request for comment on H.R. 6997, a bill to provide for a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography, and for other purposes, has been assigned to this department by the Secretary of Defense for the preparation of a report thereon expressing the views of the Department of Defense.

The proposed legislation, in assigning the responsibility for establishing a coordinated national program in oceanography to the President, is consistent with the objectives of the administration. Further, it is consistent with the actions which have been taken during the past few years by the executive branch to improve the state of our marine sciences. Of major importance are the features of the bill which provide a statutory foundation for Executive responsibilities as well as for an annual review of the field by the Congress.

The objections previously transmitted by this Department on predecessor bills have been effectively overcome in H.R. 6997. Therefore, the Department of the Navy, on behalf of the Department of Defense, supports and recommends enactment of H.R. 6997.

This report has been coordinated within the Department of Defense in accordance with procedures prescribed by the Secretary of Defense. The Bureau of the Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this report for the consideration of the committee.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES H. WAKELIN, Jr.,  
*Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Research and Development).*

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U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION,  
Washington, D.C., July 12, 1963.

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,  
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. BONNER: The Atomic Energy Commission is pleased to comment on H.R. 6997, a bill to provide for a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography, and for other purposes.

As you are aware, the AEC was one of the four Federal agencies that first suggested and participated in efforts to coordinate an effective national program in oceanography.

We believe that H.R. 6997, which directs the President to establish a comprehensive Federal program in oceanography and to fix responsibility for its conduct, could effectively achieve this important objective. Accordingly, the Commission recommends the enactment of H.R. 6997.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

A. R. LUEDECKE, *General Manager.*

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GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
*Washington, D.C., July 2, 1963.*

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in reply to your request of June 13, 1963, for the views of the Department of Commerce with respect to H.R. 6997, a bill to provide for a comprehensive, longrange, and coordinated national program in oceanography, and for other purposes.

The Department is in complete agreement with the policies of this bill as enunciated in section 2 and with the proposed means for their implementation as detailed in sections 3, 4, 5, and 6.

The Department recognizes the necessity for a mechanism whereby the varied oceanographic functions of the numerous agencies involved in this field may be effectively coordinated within the framework of the overall national interest. The bill makes it the duty of the President to—

- (1) issue a statement of national goals with respect to oceanography;
- (2) survey all significant oceanographic activities including the policies, plans, programs, and accomplishments of all Federal agencies engaged in such activities;
- (3) develop a comprehensive program of oceanographic activities to be conducted or supported by Federal agencies;
- (4) designate and fix responsibility for the direction of oceanographic activities; and
- (5) resolve differences arising among Federal agencies with respect to oceanographic activities.

These duties, if carried out with the advisory arrangements of section 3(b), with the possible assistance of the Advisory Committee on Oceanography authorized in section 4(a), and reported annually to the Congress as directed in section 5, should result in a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography which this bill is designed to insure.

It should be noted that with the exception of the required annual report to the Congress, the provisions of this bill are now being carried out in effect by the Interagency Committee on Oceanography of the Federal Council for Science and Technology. The bill would provide for the continuation of the executive responsibilities which that committee was established to meet and would insure that oceanography, an important aspect of the national scientific program, continues to receive the coordinated attention it deserves. In addition, it provides that the Congress annually be apprised of the general status of oceanography, of the planned financial support, and of the present and future plans and policies in this field.

As the Department of Commerce agrees both with the policies outlined in the bill and with the means provided for their attainment, we recommend enactment of H.R. 6997.

The Bureau of the Budget advised there would be no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. GILES.

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION,  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR,  
Washington, D.C., July 16, 1963.

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,*  
*House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in further reply to your request of June 13, 1963, for the comments of the National Science Foundation on H.R. 6997. Under the terms of the bill, the President is directed to establish a national oceanographic program and to assign responsibility for carrying out the program. In addition, the bill authorizes the President to appoint an Advisory Committee for Oceanography and directs him to report annually to the Congress on the status of the program.

We believe that legislation such as that proposed in H.R. 6997 would be useful in helping to establish guidelines for carrying out the national oceanographic program and recommend that the bill be enacted.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised us it has no objection to submission of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

LELAND J. HAWORTH, *Director.*

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SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,  
Washington, D.C., July 1, 1963.

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,*  
*U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. BONNER: Thank you for your request of June 13, 1963, for the views of the Smithsonian Institution on H.R. 6997, a bill to provide for a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography, and for other purposes.

This legislation, which supersedes H.R. 13 and identical bills, would declare it to be the policy of the United States to develop a national program in oceanography; place responsibility for implementation of the national program with the President; authorize the President to appoint an Advisory Committee on Oceanography; and to require the President to make an annual report on oceanography.

The Smithsonian Institution has a deep interest in oceanography. Since the authorization contemplated by this legislation would not relate directly to the Institution, however, we have no further comment to offer.



The Bureau of the Budget advises that it has no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

LEONARD CARMICHAEL, *Secretary.*

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE,  
*July 22, 1963.*

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request of June 13, 1963, for a report on H.R. 6997, a bill to provide for a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography, and for other purposes.

The bill would direct the President to issue a statement of national goals with respect to oceanography, to develop a comprehensive program of oceanographic activities, and to designate and fix responsibility for the direction of such activities. It would further direct him to report annually to the Congress on specific aspects of the program, and would authorize him to appoint an Advisory Committee for Oceanography.

Many of the objectives of this bill are presently being achieved through the Interagency Committee on Oceanography of which this Department is a member. Each year the Committee submits to the Congress a national oceanography program—a coordinated, comprehensive plan for the achievement of national goals in the field of oceanography. The Committee's long-range program, soon to be issued, will set forth long-range national goals with respect to oceanography. Each succeeding annual program will provide for the orderly progress toward the attainment of these goals.

The provisions of this bill would provide specific statutory basis for interagency coordination of programs in oceanography, and may well serve to encourage a greater awareness of the importance of oceanography in its many aspects. We would, therefore, have no objection to enactment of the bill.

We are advised by the Bureau of the Budget that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely,

ANTHONY J. CELEBREZZE, *Secretary.*

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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES,  
*Washington, June 26, 1963.*

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,  
House of Representatives.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Your letter of June 13, 1963, requested our comments on H.R. 6997, a bill to provide for a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography, and for other purposes.

We have no information concerning the proposed legislation and therefore have no comments to make concerning its merits.

Sincerely yours,

JOSEPH CAMPBELL,  
*Comptroller General of the United States.*

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,  
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,  
*Washington, D.C., June 27, 1963.*

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This will acknowledge your letter of June 13, 1963, inviting the Bureau of the Budget to comment on H.R. 6997, a bill to provide for a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography, and for other purposes.

The proposed legislation contains three principal provisions: (a) the President is directed to establish a comprehensive Federal program of oceanographic activities and to fix responsibility for its conduct; (b) the President is authorized to appoint an Advisory Committee for Oceanography; and (c) the President is directed to report annually on specific aspects of the program to the Congress.

The Bureau of the Budget commented on a predecessor bill, H.R. 13, in a letter to your committee on May 6, 1963. Subsequently, we made suggestions for improvement of the bill which have been reflected in the drafting of H.R. 6997.

The provision in the bill for development of a coordinated national program in oceanography conforms with the objectives of this administration. Similarly, the Office of Science and Technology, the Federal Council for Science and Technology, and the Bureau of the Budget have been seeking to improve the process of reporting to the Congress on the status and future plans for the field. Consequently, the reporting procedures in the bill are welcomed as useful guidelines in keeping the Congress informed of developments in the fast-moving field of oceanography.

The Bureau of the Budget recommends enactment of H.R. 6997.

Sincerely yours,

PHILLIP S. HUGHES,  
*Assistant Director for Legislative Reference.*

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
*Washington, D.C., July 19, 1963.*

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries,  
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. BONNER: Your committee has requested this Department's views and recommendations on H.R. 6997, a bill to provide for a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography, and for other purposes. Our views and recommendations also are applicable to H.R. 13, H.R. 880, H.R. 895, H.R. 1001,

H.R. 3119, and H.R. 4428, which are similar to H.R. 6997; and to H.R. 7015, H.R. 7029, H.R. 7036, H.R. 7040, and H.R. 7047 which are identical to H.R. 6997.

We recommend the enactment of H.R. 6997.

H.R. 6997 declares it to be the policy of the United States to develop, encourage, and maintain a coordinated, comprehensive, and long-range national program in oceanography. In addition, the bill declares it to be the national policy to implement this program through the balanced participation of qualified persons representing various governmental, educational, nonprofit, and industrial agencies, organizations, institutions, or corporate entities. H.R. 6997 is designed to carry out and effectuate these policies.

Section 3 of H.R. 6997 directs the President to (1) issue a statement of our national goals in oceanography; (2) survey the oceanographic activities of the various Federal agencies; (3) develop a comprehensive oceanographic program to be conducted or supported by these agencies; (4) designate and fix responsibility for the direction of oceanographic activities; and (5) resolve any differences between these agencies with respect to oceanographic activities. In addition this section directs him to utilize such Federal and non-Federal agencies, including the Office of Science and Technology, as he finds necessary and appropriate.

Section 4 of the bill authorizes the President to appoint an Advisory Committee for Oceanography to review the national program and make recommendations concerning the program.

Section 5 of H.R. 6997 requires that the President report annually to the Congress on the general status of oceanography; on the status of oceanography research, development, studies, and surveys together with the application of such research, development, studies, and surveys; on a financial analysis of the total amounts proposed to be appropriated for marine sciences; on a detailed analysis of the amounts proposed to be appropriated for each of the Federal agencies to carry out the purposes of this act; on current and future plans with respect to oceanography; and on the need for legislation to carry out the purposes of this act.

Finally, section 6 of the bill defines the term "oceanography."

This Department, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Mines, and the Geological Survey, is greatly interested in, and directly concerned with, the science of oceanography and desires that this form of research proceed efficiently and effectively in the national interest. The provisions in H.R. 6997 providing for a coordinated national program in oceanography are in accord with the objectives of this Department.

Presently, continuing efforts are being made to improve the planning, coordination, and management of the various Federal scientific programs on an interagency basis through the Office of Science and Technology, established by Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1962 (H. Doc. 372, 87th Cong., 2d sess.), and the Federal Council for Science and Technology. Planning and development of a national oceanographic program on a governmentwide basis, as contemplated by this legislation, is now being carried out by the Interagency Committee on Oceanography of the Federal Council for Science and Technology. This Committee has proven to be a very efficient body for interdepartmental review and coordination. It reviews current activities

and plans of individual agencies with a view toward long-range goals; develops recommendations for a governmentwide program; studies special problems relating to the implementation of the national program; and has responsibility for preparing an annual report for submission to the Federal Council.

Every year the Federal Council for Science and Technology appoints an ad hoc panel of eminent university scientists to review critically the Committee's national program on oceanography. The Interagency Committee on Oceanography also works very closely with the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Oceanography, which represents the academic interests in oceanography. Thus, university scientists have an opportunity to comment on and influence the development of our national program in oceanography.

H.R. 6997 would formalize a procedure that now exists on an informal basis by virtue of the Interagency Committee on Oceanography. We believe this legislation will lead to better unity, direction, and balance. By establishing an Advisory Committee for Oceanography to include scientists to be selected on the basis of competence from non-Federal agencies, we also believe this legislation will tend to improve the balance between Federal and nongovernmental programs in oceanography.

As a further clarification of the definition of the term "oceanography" as used in this bill, we suggest that the bill be amended by inserting after the word "physical," on page 5, line 7 the word "chemical,".

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely yours,

KENNETH HOLUM,  
*Acting Secretary of the Interior.*

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,  
*Washington, June 24, 1963.*

HON. HERBERT C. BONNER,  
*Chairman, Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee,  
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Your invitation of June 13, 1963, to comment on H.R. 6997, the Oceanographic Act of 1963, is indeed appreciated.

The purpose of the proposed legislation, to provide for a comprehensive, long-range, and coordinated national program in oceanography, and for other purposes, corresponds to the objectives which underlie the recent vigorous growth in our Nation's oceanographic research program, and is strongly concurred with. Through separate actions, both the Executive and the Congress have recognized that this program must continue to mature—with a coherent sense of purpose, with coordination in its planning and execution, with due regard to thrift, and with a farsighted provision for training and education of requisite ocean scientists and engineers. Up until now, however, there has not been agreement on legislative needs by which these steps could be most effectively achieved.

We believe that the national program in oceanography has been markedly strengthened within existing statutory authority, through the Federal Council for Science and Technology, and its Interagency Committee on Oceanography. We believe that oceanography manifests a high degree of coordination by 16 departments and agencies toward common goals, and toward mutual implementation of plans. Program elements and budgets have been annually developed on a governmentwide basis, and have been reported to the last three congressional sessions.

Nevertheless, the proposed legislation would confer to the field of oceanography a significant element of formal congressional intent and concern which could well assure continued healthy growth and effectiveness of this important field—especially considering that oceanographic research is supported primarily by the Federal Government, and considering that such research, while necessarily implicit in the missions of a number of different agencies, is the primary mission of none. The proposed legislation, H.R. 6997, should afford a more positive focus for reporting on programs and budgets whose various elements are the responsibility of a number of different departments, and correspondingly are the subject of review of the different congressional committees having jurisdiction.

I am pleased to recommend enactment of the proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

JEROME B. WIESNER.

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